

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A purified polypeptide having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 7 ~~or a sequence possessing at least 90% identity thereto.~~

Claims 2-9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method to identify compounds that inhibit phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity, said method comprising the steps of contacting a test compound with the polypeptide of claim 1, in the presence of appropriate assay components and under conditions effective to detect inhibition of the transfer of a phosphorous molecule from ATP to phosphomevalonate.

Claims 11-14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (previously presented): A diagnostic kit for detecting the presence of *Candida albicans* comprising: one or more antibodies capable of selectively binding to the polypeptide of claim 1 ~~wherein the polypeptide exhibits at least one of the same antigenic determinants as the protein of SEQ ID NO:7,~~ and instructions for use.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The purified polypeptide having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is capable of isolation from *Candida albicans*.

Claim 17-24 (cancelled).